

The story of Harithah and His Neighbour

Islamic Stories - Volume 38

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Chapter 1: The Desire for the Vision of Allah

The Neighbour's Illness: A Call to Faith

Sahib Qalyubi narrates an incident involving Harithah ibn Abi Awfa and his Christian neighbour. When the neighbour fell gravely ill with a terminal disease, Harithah visited him to offer comfort and counsel.

The Call to Islam:

Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:

"Embrace Islam, and I shall guarantee you Paradise. For Paradise is an incomparable place; nothing equals it. It contains maidens with large, beautiful eyes, whose qualities are such and such, and palaces, the descriptions of which are such and such."

In response, the Christian neighbour expressed a yearning for something even greater.

The Neighbour's Aspiration:

Neighbour:

"I desire something better and more superior than this."

The Promise of Divine Vision:

Hearing this, Harithah offered him a pledge that touched upon the ultimate reward.

The Supreme Offer:

Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:

"Accept Islam, and I guarantee for you the vision of the Lord in Paradise."

The Christian neighbour, moved by the promise of beholding the Divine, accepted Islam.

The Neighbour's Acceptance:

Neighbour:

"I shall now accept Islam, for nothing is greater than the vision of Allah."

He embraced Islam and shortly thereafter passed away.

The Dream: Confirmation of the Reward

Subsequently, Harithah saw him in a dream, riding a mount in Paradise. Recognising him, Harithah inquired of his state.

The Dream Encounter:

Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:

"Are you not that person?"

Neighbour:

"Indeed."

Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:

"What did Allah Almighty do for you?"

Neighbour:

"When my soul was taken, it was raised towards the Throne. Allah, Glorious and Exalted, said: 'You believed in Me out of longing for My vision and to meet Me; therefore, for you is My pleasure, My everlasting reward, and My vision.'"

A Reflection of Gratitude:

Upon hearing this in the dream, Harithah expressed his gratitude for having been granted the opportunity to extend this invitation.

A Prayer of Thanks:

Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:

"Thanks be to Allah for this favour, through which I was able to do you good."